

IPEN INTERVENTION 28th JUNE 2012 ON ART. 20 and ART. 20BIS

Thank you Mr President. I am Imogen Ingram from Island Sustainability Alliance Inc. one of the 700 Participating Organizations of IPEN, the International POPs Elimination Network.

During the Contact Group last night on Articles 18 and 19 in Section J, the WHO clarified the reluctance with regard to the proposed global monitoring was because the text suggested that WHO would be responsible for implementation of the Convention. The text was accordingly changed last night, so we hope that the WHO can cooperate with Ministries of Health in parties to fill knowledge gaps with regard to mercury hotspots.

When considering Article 20 on *Research, development and monitoring* we believe that such activities would advance the overarching objective of this treaty on mercury to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury emissions and releases from all sources. It would be important in this respect to develop and/or improve inventories of releases together with Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR). Monitoring data from public interest NGOs, Indigenous Peoples and others should form part of the disseminated information. Public accessibility of data is an important aspect of this Article, with special emphasis placed on monitoring food and making that data available publicly. Health, social and cultural impacts should be assessed and publicly released in a sensitive manner.

To conclude, we support Article 20bis on *Health Aspects* which proposes health studies, access to health care, dissemination of information, prevention measures for occupational exposure of workers, and biomonitoring. Further, we would support the global monitoring program proposed by the WHO, after it has been carefully reviewed to ensure it addresses all the factors affecting populations at risk, including *inter alia*, diet, occupational exposure, and contaminated sites. In this regard, it would be essential to engage national Ministries of Health, which could use the reviewed WHO guidance [PROPER NAME/CITE?] as a tool to implement the Convention. Periodic review of the program for effectiveness and sharing of results and experiences could form part of the reporting on effectiveness in implementation of the instrument/treaty. Thank you Mr President.